

# SUFFOLK-NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

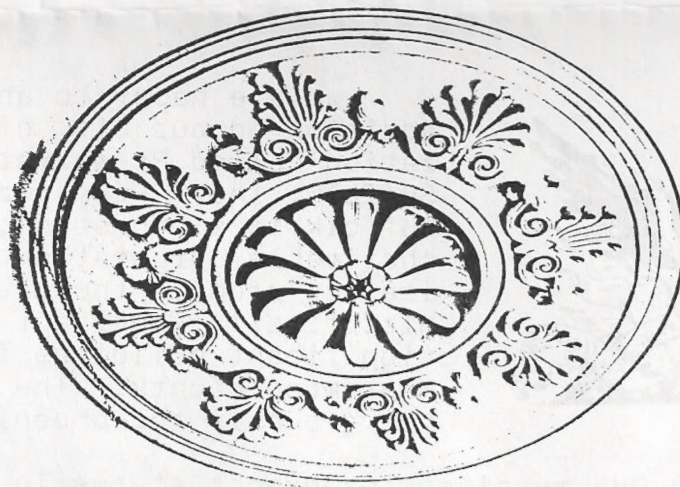
February 1988

## WINTER DINNER MEETING

On Sunday, February 21st, the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society will meet at the Suffolk Holiday Inn on Pruden Boulevard. A social hour will precede the 1:00 lunch and program. Tomato juice and white wine will be available if you wish to purchase them. We will serve ourselves from the Sunday buffet provided by the Holiday Inn at a cost of \$10.86 per person. Please make reservations by calling 934-1313 between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. by Friday, February 19th.

Our speakers for this meeting will be Rebecca Ritter, the new Executive Director of Riddick's Folly, Inc. and Kermit Hobbs, co-author of A Pictorial History of Suffolk. Please plan to come!

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detail of plaster ceiling medallion at Riddick's Folly

Riddick's Folly - The restoration of Riddick's Folly, the 1837 Greek Revival mansion in downtown Suffolk, is nearly complete. The furnishings should be returned to the building at



the end of this month and the building should be open to the public the first week in March. They will open the doors with an exhibit entitled "A Share of Honor - Virginia Women 1600 - 1945" More information about the opening of the building will be sent to you by the Riddick's Folly Board. (Shortly after the first of the month we will be moving into the building with an office on the top floor. Please help if you are called on - the more hands available, the easier the job!)

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#### Main Street Program

Suffolk has been accepted for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program to be administered by the Downtown Suffolk Association. Mrs. Mariam Rowe has been hired as Director of the program and will assume her duties March 1st. This program represents a partnership between the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Conservation and Historic Resources' Division of Historic Landmarks which provides design and preservation technical assistance to participating communities.

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We are happy to announce the addition to our City of a new organization called Preservation of Historic Suffolk, Inc. Preservation of Historic Suffolk is a non-stock, non-profit, charitable corporation which was organized to promote the preservation of historically important or architecturally significant buildings in old Suffolk and Nansemond County. The symbol of the new group is the phoenix.

The PHS received tax exempt status in November, 1987 and is open to annual membership as follows:

\$ 50.00.....	voting member
10.00.....	non-voting student
25.00.....	non-voting family
100.00.....	corporate
100.00.....	sponsor
250.00.....	patron



Address inquires to:

James A. Moore, Esquire  
705 West Washington Street  
Suffolk, Virginia 23434

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#### Mail Bag

Civil War Maps - Catalogue may be requested from  
Murray Hudson Antiquarian Book & Maps  
Rt. 1, Box 362  
Dyersburg, Tennessee 38024  
(901) 285-0666

Gates County Historical Society questions - write in care of  
Louise P. Lyons  
Rt. 1, Box 14  
Eure, NC 27935

Information on John or Ann Holladay of 1790 census - please send  
information to:

Nancy Offield  
1806 Woenall Rd.  
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

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#### From the Past

This month is the anniversary of the visit of the Marquis de Lafayette to Suffolk. He had been invited to this country by Congress in appreciation for his help to us during the Revolution. The following is printed from Fillmore Norfleet's Suffolk in Virginia - c. 1795-1840.

"On Friday, February 25, 1825, accompanied by an entourage comprising his son, his secretary Le Vasseur, and others, La Fayette took the 'Fayetteville stage' at Portsmouth, paused '4 miles this side of Suffolk,' where he was greeted by a 'deputation from the citizens,' and then lumbered into town where 'he was received with Military honors by that fine martial corps the 'Suffolk Columbians,' commanded by Capt.



Charlton, and escorted to the Court House.' He was lodged at the Castle Inn.

"At six o'clock dinner was served by James Holladay at the courthouse attended by eighty guests presided over by Mills Riddick, president, and Matthias Jones, vice-president, all of whom listened to an address by Joseph Prentis. Among the thirteen toasts given to countries, prevailing heroes, and ladies, was La Fayette's: 'To the town of Suffolk, and Nansemond County. May they forever enjoy all the blessings of Republican institutions, and prosperous industry.'

"Following the banquet, all went back to the drawing room of Castle Inn where the ladies were received until eleven. The next morning after breakfast, the General 'proceeded in Thompson's stage for Somerton escorted by a number of gentlemen in carriages and on horseback.' After dinner 'prepared in handsome style by Washington Smith, Esq.,' proprietor of an inn, the General left Somerton and swept majestically towards Murfreesboro."

(Editor's note - Castle Inn stood on the site where Hubert H. Young's law and real estate office now stands on North Main Street. Also, Washington Smith, mentioned above, was a previous owner of one of the houses we opened on our Christmas tour 1987.)

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#### Christmas Tour - 1987

About three hundred guests visited the four homes and three churches opened in Whayleville and Somerton during our Christmas tour. Our thanks to the homeowners, church members, hostesses and chairmen who worked to make this a success. Our special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. T. J. O'Connor who wore so many hats on our behalf. We hope to present a financial report from the tour at our February 21st meeting.

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Due to an illness in the family of our Treasurer, Marilyn Hardin, we have not been able to keep our books entirely up-to-date since Christmas. Bear with us. Our best to Mr. Hardin.

Dues...\$10.00 - family

\$6.00 - individual